

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0007] on page 2 with the following:

The present invention minimizes the above-referenced problems by the use of a porous protective sheath which prevents fiber breakage and minimizes media loss. The porous protective sheath contains the active extraction medium therein and replaces the coated fiber. Use of this sheath eliminates the need for complete unprotected exposure of the fiber. Basically, ~~perousity~~ porosity of the sheath is provided a number of openings or slots via which the active media contained within the sheath is exposed to the selected environment, sample, etc. The sheath is of sufficient strength for the septum piercing operation, and may have an open or pointed end. The porous sheath may be mounted so as to retract into the needle of the device of above referenced Patent No. 5,691,206 in place of the fiber, or replace the needle and the fiber of that device, but would be subjected to exposure of the environment unless the pores, openings or slots thereof were covered.